

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 26, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:30 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, and Frank Maher. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Principal Denise M. Boulé; and Vice Principal Jim Alves were present. Member William Munroe arrived at 7:04 p.m. Director of Curriculum Philip D. Thornton; Director of Administration Robert Ross; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo arrived at 7:15 p.m. Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester was absent.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 and in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a)(8) for Student Disciplinary Hearing, written notice having been provided to the individual informing him/her of the right to hold the hearing in open session. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 - 0.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 7:15 p.m.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 7:15 p.m.

She announced a vote had been taken in Executive Session to uphold the removal of a student from the high school baseball team for the remainder of the baseball season. Voted 5 – 0 – 2. Chair DeSack and Member Munroe abstained.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – None

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Representative Jaclyn Manchester was absent. No report given.

Stephen Robinson – Interview for Legal Council – Attorneys Stephen Robinson and Mary Ann Carroll gave an overview of their law firm's background and experience, noting the firm specializes in education, has four attorneys available to respond immediately to clients' issues, and is always willing to hold workshops and conferences in order to keep school personnel abreast of current educational regulations.

Members asked several questions.

Attorneys Robinson and Carroll responded/related the following experiences- collective bargaining, negotiations, taking issues to the state level on a regular basis, educational experience - Mr. Robinson having served for many years on the Pawtucket School Committee and also a former teacher, and Ms. Carroll being a retired Superintendent of Schools. Attorney Robinson also addressed questions regarding his firm's fee schedule, saying working without a contract was open for discussion and he was willing to consider whatever fair and reasonable practice is.

Chair DeSack thanked Attorneys Robinson and Carroll for coming and explained the district is still in the process of interviewing other law firms.

High School Presentation – Principal Denise Boulé expressed how proud she was to say the high school was recently ranked High Performing and Improving. She talked about the improvements at the high school that has occurred over the past six years. She highlighted recent high school student accomplishments such as, a list she had just received in the mail of student that are being commended by the State of RI for such high SAT scores, a second list of students that, on their own time, participated in the Science Olympiad, noting that on average over the past few years EWGHS

students have come in repeatedly at the top ten, and for the first time the EWGSH held a jazz festival and a band festival and were deemed for the first time as a band of excellence. She explained the high school students are accomplishing across the board educationally, in the arts, sports, etc.

Principal Boulé presented a PowerPoint slide which showed data relating to the high school's performance in its most recent participation in state assessments. Principal Boulé related that not only are scores important, but there are 21 benchmarks that must be met. She explained that one benchmark requires 95% of your students to take part in the assessments. Principal Boulé was proud to report that in both ELA and Math the senior high had 100% participation, which meant if students were suspended or out placed, an administrator was sent out to the student to administer the test.

Director of Curriculum Phil Thornton recognized that 100% participation is not a regular occurrence at the high school level.

Principal Boulé reported the high school daily attendance rate was 94% and the required benchmark needed was 89%, and the high school graduation rate was 94.59% and the benchmark needed was 71.4%.

Principal Boulé said she planned to graduate 168 students this year, noting the graduating class size has been growing each year since

the first graduating class in 1993, and that the current freshman class consists of 220 students.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 26, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 3

Director of Curriculum Phil Thornton reviewed data concerning high school ELA and Math scores, including students with IEP's whose scores rose above the bar. He explained upcoming fall testing, noting grades 3 through 8 will test, the high school will be taking the PSATS, and there will be no state testing this fall in the high school. He also communicated that science testing is coming in 2007.

Principal Boulé reviewed the math accomplishments at the high school level, noting the math program has shown a slow but sure improvement over the past four years and up to 82.95% of high school students are leaving EWG with problem solving skills as well as basic math skills.

Member McFadden and Dr. Thornton had a discussion regarding SAT scores.

Vice Principal Alves reviewed a handout report indicating percentages of disciplinary incidences for 2002 – 2005. The report indicated a significant decline over the past three years. He also

reviewed attendance summary reports for the 2003 – 2004 and 2004 – 2005 school years, reporting an increase in attendance in all grades, which he attributed to the support of our School Resource Officers and good communications with parents.

Principal Boulé communicated she did not, but will in the future, keep statistics on mediation, which is a common practice at the high school and is used to keep an incident from erupting into a more serious incident. She also mentioned teachers' classroom management regarding cheating, noting the current course of action, (parent involvement, classroom consequences, notification to the office), seems to be working as there is less incidences of cheating.

Member Maher inquired about missing data on the attendance summary report for the 2003 – 2004 school year.

Vice Principal Alves explained it was probably a computer glitch, he would look into it, and report back at a later time.

Principal Boulé reported the New England Association of Schools and Colleges will be visiting the high school in the fall of 2006. She communicated that over the past four years the high school has worked really hard to realign its mission statement and expectations with the standards movement.

Member Clay recognized and expressed appreciation to Principal

Boulé for the high quality shown at the high school.

Member Clay suggested moving up agenda item, UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Participation in Extra Curricular Activities, including Athletics Policy # 8607 – Revision, as it pertains to the high school and requires Principal Boulé’s input.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 26, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 4

Consensus was to move up the item.

Member Coutcher expressed his concerns regarding the current GPA of 1.8, commenting he believed it should be raised to 2.0, but there was some question as to how block scheduling effects a student’s GPA.

Principal Boulé summarized many different scenarios regarding GPA’s, the probationary period, less/more courses allotted in block scheduling, summer school, number of F’s, and participation in sports and/or extra curricular activities. She explained that before this policy, if a student went to summer school and passed they became eligible to participate in the fall; however their GPA and Grade were not changed on their transcript or report card.

Chair DeSack asked for Principal Boulé’s opinion regarding the revision of this policy.

Principal Boulé explained that most students who attend summer school go on to the next level in the fall, many of the students who attend summer school are not solely driven by participation in sports, and as few as 0 – 4 students after attending summer school then become eligible to play sports in the fall. Principal Boulé expressed her feelings that a principal needs the flexibility to assist a struggling student and a student should be allowed to go to summer school and it should count for something.

Members gave their recommendations/thoughts regarding summer school attendance, eligibility, GPA, etc. There was lengthy discussion concerning why summer school attendance should not allow a student to participate in fall activities/sports.

Principal Boulé related that in all fairness, the types of students being discussed are not representative of the majority of students attending summer school and most students want to feel they are achieving.

Members discussed the probation period, effective date if policy amended now, and the GPA.

Member Maher recommended tabling the policy, now that the committee has received Principal Boulé's input, for further discussion.

Principal Boulé commented that should the committee adopt the changes to this policy concerning summer school, it will impact her decisions this coming June as it effects next September and it is important that a decision be made so she is aware and on an equal footing for fall sports. She noted the student handbook deadline is the middle of June.

Consensus was to table this issue for further discussion at the next meeting.

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 26, 2005
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 5**

**Comprehensive Resource Plan Presentation – Director of Curriculum
Phil Thornton gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the comprehensive resource plan, noting all federal grant monies and state monies ties into one reporting document and covers everything the district is required to do in that document.**

Members asked probing and clarifying questions.

Dr. Thornton concluded by saying CRP is a very structured process which tells the district how it can spend federal and state dollars.

Member Munroe requested data pertaining to state monies.

Dr. Thornton explained his dealings are with federal monies, Director of Administration Robert Ross' dealings are with state monies, and Mr. Ross will bring data concerning state monies to the next meeting.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Clay requested the Joint Meeting Minutes from March 2, 2005 be pulled from the consent agenda.

Member Maher requested the Regular Minutes from April 12, 2005 be pulled from the consent agenda.

Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda less the pulled Minutes from March 2, 2005 and April 12, 2005. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Minutes

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments

2. ⇧ Leaves of Absence – (As recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Request from Ellen Schraeder for a maternity leave of absence

beginning at the end of her maternity disability period and continuing until June 2006.

b. Request from Regina Kilday to continue her unpaid maternity leave of absence continuing until May 16, 2005.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 26, 2005
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 6

3. Resignations

a. Letter of resignation from Linda Breault-Luther as Jr. High School English

Teacher for the purpose of retirement, effective June 22, 2005, with regret.

4. Grievances

C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 236,122.75
End of Consent Agenda

Superintendent Seitsinger read the list of correspondence.

D. Correspondence – (1) Terms for LAB/NEASC Site, (2) Education

Week April 13, 2005 Article, (3) January 9, 2003 Regulations of the Board of Regents, (4) 2005 RI State FFA Convention Award Winners from EWG Sr. High, (5) Memo to Superintendent Seitsinger from Robert Ross Regarding EWG Sports 4 Kids, (6) Memo to Superintendent Seitsinger from Mr. Ross regarding Emergency Preparedness Committee, (7) Memo to School Committee and the Superintendent from Bill Clay and Teri Cicero regarding the High School Presentation, (8) Bacon & Edge 1993 Audited Financial Statements, (9) Bacon & Edge 1993 Audited Form 31 R/A, (10) Memo to Chair DeSack from Superintendent Seitsinger regarding the District's Mission Statement and Belief Statement, (11) Memo to Superintendent Seitsinger from Dr. Thornton regarding Title Monies Comparison , (12) Bylaws Approved Revisions

Chair DeSack asked if there was any discussion on the correspondence.

Member Clay communicated that correspondence items 5 and 6 should come before the committee for discussion.

Superintendent Seitsinger explained the correspondence items should be acknowledged as received and then requested to be pulled and added to a future agenda.

Chair DeSack reiterated what Superintendent Seitsinger said, and confirmed that correspondence items (5) Memo to Superintendent

Seitsinger from Robert Ross Regarding EWG Sports 4 Kids and (6) Memo to Superintendent Seitsinger from Mr. Ross regarding Emergency Preparedness Committee will be placed as items on the May 10th or May 24th School Committee agenda.

With regard to correspondence item (10) Memo to Chair DeSack from Superintendent Seitsinger Regarding the District's Mission Statement and Belief Statement, Chair DeSack explained the first meeting to work on the district's mission statement and belief statement was set for Thursday, April 28, 2005 and asked if any member would be interested in volunteering their time and services to take part in this undertaking?

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 26, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 7

Member Clay volunteered to serve but stated he could not attend the first meeting due to a previous commitment.

Chair DeSack communicated she will post future meeting dates in correspondence for members' information so they can participate if they wish to and will also notify the town councils of future meeting dates so they can attend.

NEW BUSINESS – Sr. High School Proposed April 2006 Trip to Italy & Greece – Superintendent Seitsinger addressed the sr. high trip proposal for April 2006 and explained they had provided a good

academic background for the proposed trip.

Member McFadden asked if the district will pay for or subsidize this trip.

Superintendent answered no.

Member McFadden asked why then does the senior high school seek School Committee consent?

Superintendent Seitsinger explained this question has come up in the past and he recommended this issue be revisited by the committee.

Member McFadden expressed concern about putting the district in a liable situation should some inappropriate conduct occur on a trip that the district has no sponsorship for. He asked why the district should incur any questions, issues, or liability if they don't subsidize the trip.

Superintendent Seitsinger concurred that an examination of liability and foreign travel must be done.

After lengthy discussion among members, consensus was to set this proposal aside until the following information is provided - (1) more detail about the trip itself, and (2) policy committee will research and bring forth more recommendations.

Non-Discrimination Policy – Employees – Students Policy #2150 – 1st Reading Member Clay asked members to discard page one of the non-discrimination policy, as there is no such policy. He explained the district was required to have a policy regarding sexual orientation, the policy committee decided to include sexual orientation under non-discrimination, and there are two (2) policies -one for employees and one for students. (1) Policy #2150: Non-Discrimination Policy-Employees (2) Non-Discrimination Policy-Students – (will be assigned a new policy number)

Consensus was to place both policies on the next agenda for a 2nd reading and members will bring any questions and/or recommendations to the next meeting.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 26, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 8

Prohibited Demonstration Policy #6263 – Adoption – Member Clay explained there are still questions with regard to this policy which he was unable to address, as he was out of town. Consensus was to table this policy. Chair DeSack recommended having the district's legal counsel look at the policy prior to moving forward to be sure the policy does not violate labor laws. She asked the policy committee to inform her when they are ready to place this item back on the agenda.

Homework Policy #7810 – Revision – No further revisions.

Member McFadden moved to accept the second reading of Homework Policy # 7810. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 7 - 0.

Member Clay communicated there was no need to vote on a second reading. This item will be placed on the May 10th agenda for adoption.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to the items pulled from the

Consent Agenda – Member Clay requested the Joint Meeting Minutes from March 2,

2005 be pulled from the consent agenda, as they listed Vice Chair Cicero as being present and she was not, and they listed Member Clay as being absent and he was present.

Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the Joint Meeting Minutes from March 2, 2005, as amended. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 7 – 0.

Member Maher requested the Regular Minutes from April 12, 2005 be pulled from the

consent agenda, as he requested additional text be added in two areas. With regard to EWG TV technology, he asked the following text be added to the April 12, 2005 minutes: 1)-(page 2-paragraph 4) – however, even though their technology is not specific to time, a

specific day was within their technology and they could list a day and a time window of when School Committee and Town Council meetings will air. 2)-(page 5) – with regard to Unfinished Business-Budget 2005 – 2006: Member Maher also requested the School Committee reallocate some of the 13% budget increase, that was approved at the DFM, into the reserve fund and the School Committee give thought as to where some of that money should be allocated from to the reserve fund.

Chair DeSack noted page 4 included text regarding Member Maher's request to reallocate some of the increase and read the text.

Member Maher said he would hope that the School Committee will have some way of reallocating some of that 13% into the reserve fund and he had asked that the School Committee members look into that, and possibly finding some way that some of that money be reallocated into that reserve fund for capital improvements, as the School Committee got everything they asked for."

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH APRIL 26, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PAGE 9

Member McFadden asked if Member Maher was requesting that this discussion appears on a future agenda.

Member Maher answered, "Yes, but also I wanted the minutes to

reflect that I had requested that.”

Chair DeSack commented that further discussion on reallocating some of the budget monies for the reserve fund will be carried over to a future agenda.

Member McFadden moved to accept the Regular Minutes from April 12, 2004 as amended. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 7 – 0.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETING - Chair DeSack reminded members that the next School Committee meeting on May 10, 2005 will take place at Wawaloam School and asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

Chair DeSack reiterated a vote had been taken in Executive Session to support the current disciplinary policy in place and consequence set to a student. Voted 5 – 0 – 2. Chair DeSack and Member Munroe abstained.

Member Maher reiterated two questions that residents asked him; the first - will the school district be able to fund a single digit increase next year? Member Maher said he was unable to answer that question, as the committee does not have a long-term financial plan.

Chair DeSack pointed out that was incorrect, as the School Committee has been working on a plan and does have a 5-year plan, going forward the committee hopes to continue planned meetings with both town councils and presenting at least a 5-year plan.

Member Maher explained the second question community members were asking were concerns regarding the increase in the amount of signatures needed, (from 200 signatures to 600 signatures), to request an additional district financial meeting and where that change originated from.

Chair DeSack said there has been a change in the state law. Chair DeSack said there was some discussion as to who has jurisdiction - the state or town charter.

**Adjournment – Member Maher moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.
Seconded by Chair DeSack. Voted 7 - 0.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK